



Verband der Schweizerischen Volkshochschulen
Association des Universités Populaires Suisses
Associazione delle Università Popolari Svizzere
Associazioni da las Universitads Popularas Svizras

VSV Workshop for Migrants

VSV builds its workshops on the significance of key competences in Europe (refer 8 key competences for lifelong learning 2006/962/EC) and specifically focuses on sustainable improvement of „intercultural, entrepreneurship and social skills and competences of the civic society“.

2. KEY COMPETENCES

The European Framework for Key Competences for Lifelong Learning (7) identifies and defines eight key competences necessary for personal fulfilment, active citizenship, social inclusion and employability in a knowledge society:

1. communication in the mother tongue;
2. communication in foreign languages;
3. mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology;
4. digital competence;
5. learning to learn;
6. social and civic competences;
7. sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
8. cultural awareness and expression.

Initial education and training should support the development of these key competences to a level that equips all young people — including the disadvantaged — for further learning and working life. Adult education and training should give real opportunities to all adults to develop and update their key competences throughout life.

The goal is to develop new skills and behaviour at workplace and in social life (life skills), which promote coexistence and cooperation among all people.

What are the Objectives?

- Improve the "intercultural and entrepreneurial skills and competencies of the migrants," as key competencies for professional development, social cohesion, integration and sustainability

- Create a common guideline of “cross-cultural entrepreneurship skills and competences for citizens” focused on cultural issues, information and key factors.

What are the Target Groups?

Target groups comprise migrants, trainers, NGOs and organizations in the field of vocational education and training.

What is the Focus in this Training?

Our primary focus is on intercultural issues: The apparent similarity of the situation "meeting at the immigration office" – namely, the communication between members of different cultural backgrounds

We are offering:

Language Courses

Course contents:

German and French courses at 5 levels (A1 Beginners – B1 Beginners) each lasting one semester. The course dates are based on the school calendar. A placement test is done before the course starts.

A course certificate will be issued to participants who have attended more than 80% of the course.

On the other hand, the requirements for communications in an immigration society are more varied and more complex than in business situations: they are not factual or project-based, but cross-cross all domains of life such as work, housing, consumption, education, health and disease. If one tries to familiarize oneself with the code of conduct for the different cultures present in our society, one would soon

realize the impossibility of acquiring such information. But even within the groups of migrants the everyday cultural experiences differ, for e.g.: the second and third generation with respect to cultural and political expressions. The cultural or ethnic character of a man is thus merely one of the several dimensions (education, income, religion, gender ...) that determine his actions and interactions. That implies that many problems faced by migrants in this society, result not from their cultural diversity, but are classic problems of poor living in a rich society. This approach therefore considers that we are not dealing primarily with cultures, rather with individuals. The individual is the central category in the pedagogy of recognition.

Consulting services

Our consulting services aimed on migrants independently of their resident status, as well as for professionals from Institutions and organisations from the region Bern. It includes:

- **Brief consultancy**: Consulting and Information about residence and naturalization, relationship, family, work, school, education, finance, housing, courses etc.

We are also planning to start with:

- **Project Consulting**: Advisory services and events for groups and associations which would like to start integration projects.

The other focus area is an action – oriented approach in Training and Learning:

For our training in the workshops," we chose an action-oriented approach.

For that reason we are offering German and French Conversation courses. Those small group courses are moderated with one course trainer and voluntaries. Action-oriented learning is usually for a specific situation for practice to derive a general law or to declare a general principle (inductive approach).

The principle is called "learning by doing". The themes of the action-oriented education pay more attention to personal experiences and interests of people and challenge them to emotional and cognitive conflicts and discussions. In addition, they focus on areas of activity in the private and professional life.

Holistic learning is learning with all senses, learning with understanding, mind and body. As a result of the action-based learning should be "head, heart and hand" cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning of students brought together in a balance. In the action-oriented teaching - in an exchange of effort and relaxation - mental and manual labour work together, involving the sense of feeling. Under the principle of learning orientation is the one asked reinforced what students / inside to learn what purposes and should, on the other hand, the conditions that they bring with them according to their plants, their age and their specific living and learning experiences for diverse learning processes and what their preferred learning styles are. The aim of the action-oriented education is the production of a material and / or linguistic action products. This is done in single, partner, group and project work (with a common introduction, planning and discussion): wall paper (possibility: an exhibition), letter, pamphlet, participation in competition, role play, scenic, musical, dance, theatre performance, field trip (excursion), poster, process instructions, collage, photo/ art gallery, pictures, presentation, radio documentary, video clip, panel discussion, play, simulation.

Foreigners in Canton Bern must complete language course

To promote the integration of the foreign population, the Canton of Bern has a new integration law. Thus, foreigners with insufficient language skills must not only visit a language course, but also complete. For this they are committed to an integration agreement.